

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A soap making mold, comprising:
a set of splits adapted to be assembled together to form a molding cavity in [[the]] an inside of the mold, each of the splits having a recess defining part of the cavity, wherein one of the splits has a larger surface area in the recess thereof than any of the other splits has in the recess thereof, [[the]] a ratio of the surface area of the recess of the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits to that of any of the other splits ~~ranging~~ ranges from 52:48 to 66:34, and neither of the recesses includes an undercut.

2. (Original): The soap making mold according to claim 1, wherein the set of splits consists of two splits.

3. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 1, wherein any of the other splits has a larger surface roughness Ra in the recess thereof than the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits has in the recess thereof, [[the]] a difference of the surface roughness Ra between the recess of the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits and that of any of the other splits being 0.1 to 30 μm .

4. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 3, wherein each of the other splits has a large surface roughness region and a small surface roughness region in the recess thereof, the small surface roughness region having a surface roughness Ra that is substantially equal to the surface roughness Ra of the recess of the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits.

5. (Original): The soap making mold according to claim 4, wherein the recess of any of the other splits has a face substantially parallel to a parting face of the mold, and the large surface roughness region is formed on the face.

6. (Original): The soap making mold according to claim 4, wherein the large surface roughness region of the recess in each of the other splits is at least 30% of the total surface area of the recess.

7. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 4, wherein the large surface roughness region of each of the other splits has a surface roughness Ra of 0.2 to 30 μm , and the small surface roughness region of each of the other splits and the recess of the ~~first mentioned split~~ one of the splits both have a surface roughness Ra of 0.1 to 30 μm .

8. (Currently Amended): A soap making mold, comprising:
a set of splits adapted to be assembled together to form a molding cavity in [[the]] an inside of the mold, each of the splits having a recess defining part of the cavity,
wherein one of the splits has a larger surface roughness Ra in the recess thereof than any of the other splits has in the recess thereof, [[the]] a difference of the surface roughness Ra between the recess of the ~~first mentioned split~~ one of the splits and the recess of any of the other of the splits being 0.1 to 30 μm .

9. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 8, wherein the ~~first mentioned split~~ one of the splits has a large surface roughness region and a small surface roughness region in the recess thereof, the small surface roughness region having a surface

roughness Ra that is substantially equal to the surface roughness Ra of the recess of each of the other splits.

10. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 9, wherein the recess of the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits has a face substantially parallel to a parting face of the mold, and the large surface roughness region is formed on the face.

11. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 9, wherein the large surface roughness region of the recess in the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits is at least 30% of [[the]] a total surface area of the recess.

12. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 9, wherein the large surface roughness region of the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits has a surface roughness Ra of 0.2 to 30 μm , and the small surface roughness region of the ~~first-mentioned split~~ one of the splits and the recess of each of the other splits both have a surface roughness Ra of 0.1 to 30 μm .

13. (Currently Amended): The soap making mold according to claim 8, wherein the set of splits consists of two splits, and the recesses of the two splits are substantially symmetrical to each other.

14. (Withdrawn): A method of producing a bar of soap comprising the steps of injecting molten soap under pressure into the cavity of the mold according to claim 1 or 8, cooling and solidifying the molten soap under compression, opening the mold, and removing the solidified soap from the mold.

15. (Withdrawn): The method of producing a bar of soap according to claim 14, wherein the molten soap has a great number of air bubbles dispersed therein.

16. (Withdrawn): The method of producing a bar of soap according to claim 14, wherein the step of opening the mold is carried out after the outer surface of the soap has solidified and while the inside of the soap has not solidified.

17. (New): The soap making mold according to claim 8, wherein neither of the recesses includes an undercut.